

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

EROSION OF TRUTH IN AFRICA: A TRAGEDY THAT HAS BEFALLING US?

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Except for disease outbreaks like Malaria, Polio, Ebola, Lassa, Dengue and the likes, and her self-imposed wars, leadership crisis, economic woes, poverty and illiteracy, the African continent has relatively enjoyed less natural disasters when compared with other continents of the world that have witnessed, suffered and endured lots of natural and man-made disasters.

Africans have also enjoyed living in a continent with abundance of resources -human and natural, but in comparison with other continents, they have nothing much to show for such great potentials. The far below-expectation performance by African nations caused Donald Trump, the American President, to assert that among other allegedly named nations, African countries are “*Shit-hole countries*”.

Of course, Donald Trump’s blunt comments on his perception of African countries, elicited reactions from Africans who argued to the contrary, but nevertheless, there are existential basis for such negative perception in Africa. It is in that regard that one does wonder, what might account for the seemingly entrenched retrogressive tendencies in the continent and her fixation with wars, coups, leadership crisis and underdevelopment in all spheres of life –*Economy, Education, Housing, Health and Science and Technology*, among others, despite her huge potentials.

An obvious stand-out in this predicament is the dearth of sound, proactive and productive leadership in Africa, and African’s penchant for blind, uninformed and skewed loyalty to their leaders, as well as their craving for mediocrity and the tendency to condone, encourage and proliferate the endemic lies and deceptions of most of her leaders; even in the

midst of glaring incompetence, corruption, profligacy, senility and gross recklessness of her leaders. Most disheartening, is the seeming infusion of lies, deceit, mediocrity and corruption, into the cultural fabric of her societies. In fact, the ‘*culturization*’ of lies and deceptions across all levels of African society, and the normalcy with which it is being perpetrated among young Africans, has resulted in the consolidation of corruption as the major ‘backbone’ of African backwardness. It is while pondering on the precarious state of affairs in Africa that the question-heading for this editorial comment on ‘*Truth in Africa*’ popped out.

Truth in Africa is now contextual or circumstantial. She has become the prisoner of sycophancy, sentimentalism, political patronage or religious/ethnic/sectional/racial solidarity. She has been sacrificed on the altar of survival, existentialism, relevance, comfort and self-defense. Truth has been stripped off her potency and storm-calming potentials, as well as her path-finding, life-changing, justice-driven and illuminating attributes. She has also been forced to take a back seat, while treacherous, murderous, treasonable, enslaving and deceitful lies takes over the driving seat of African’s existential landscape. In fact and unexpectedly, the listed brand of lies are now being peddled from the tables of supposed, so-called and should-be leaders, mentors, religious icons, judges, adjudicators, lawyers, solicitors and the likes. It is also disheartening that the wind of falsehood has blown into all sectors of the society, including education, health, housing, economy, governance, religion, justice, public relations, security/policing and manufacturing, among others.





Therefore, the assertion that ‘repeated lies can seemingly be adjudged the truth’ may now be said to characterize the African backwardness in terms of societal enhancement, justice, peaceful co-existence and overall development. However, like hot destructive lava exudes from a volcanic eruption, so is this trending societal deviation to falsehood and deceitful lifestyle as the tools for success and progress as well as the veritable pathway to wealth, power, and fame, which unfortunately, and from its depth, has ‘volcanically’ exuded the destructive ‘lava’ of poverty, strife, disease, mutual suspicion, wars, cultism, ritual killings, human and drug trafficking, child prostitution, essential drug counterfeiting, Mediterranean Sea journeys of death, modern-day slavery and general insecurity of all shades –terrorism, armed robbery and kidnapping, across the land. All these have become the benefits of falsehood being perpetrated across all levels of the African society as against the developmental potentials of truthfulness and dispassionate evaluation of situations/circumstances. One would dare ask: Hey! Africans!! Where is thy sense of reasoning? How have lies, falsehood and deceit become your bed fellows? Why have you choosing to embrace the tradition of falsehood at the expense of truthfulness? Who is to blame for this predicament in Africa?

It is rather difficult to call specific names as regards culprits, but certain English words like being myopic, greedy, selfish and parochial, as well as nepotism, tribalism, bigotry, profligacy and self-serving, among others, typify the nature of such individuals that can be blamed for the situations most African nations have found themselves.

Unfortunately, these individuals, most times the ruling elite, for various untoward reasons, ironically receive tremendous support from most of those that are bearing the brunt of their actions and inactions. These brunt-bearers include the impoverished, the economically deprived, the educationally disadvantaged, the mentally enslaved and the religiously, ethnically and racially brain-washed folks, living in slums with no basic amenities. No wonder, these perpetrators of African backwardness thrive, while also metamorphosing into mega-synthesizers and vendors of lies and falsehood. Their gullible supporters and followers lay in wait for ‘handouts’ and ‘peanuts’ as well as the ‘crumbs’ falling from their exulted table of success, power and fame.

Indeed, if the suffering and hardship in Africa has not been able to forge a revolution of mindset change, what then would? Who will bail the cat?

